

Food as a commons

An introduction and a view on Brussels

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KUL/VUB

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Food as a commons

Introduction



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Examples from
Brussels



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***Examples from
Brussels***

Challenges

Food as a commons

=> A **rural struggle** in its origins..

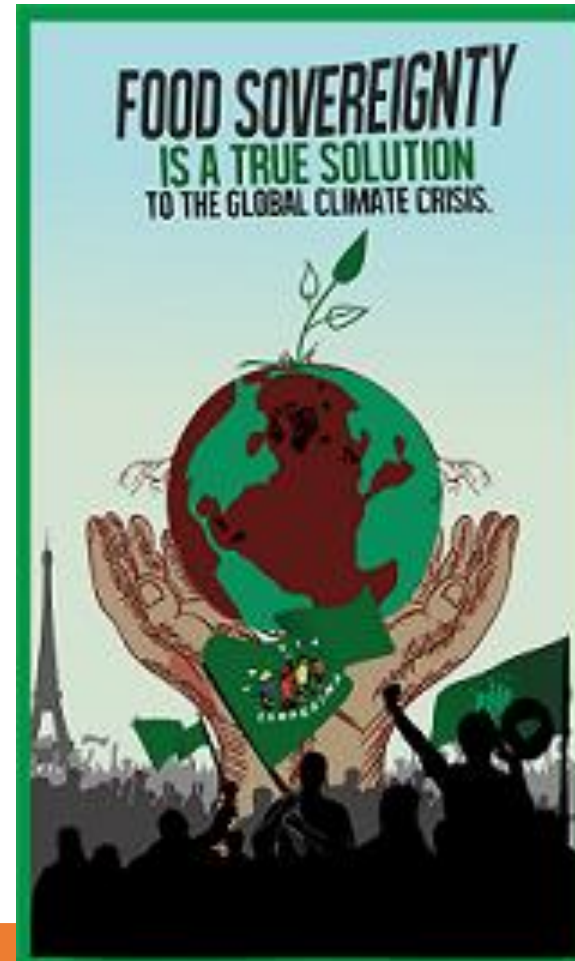


Food as a commons

=> A **rural struggle** in its origins..



Key example: La **via Campesina** movement



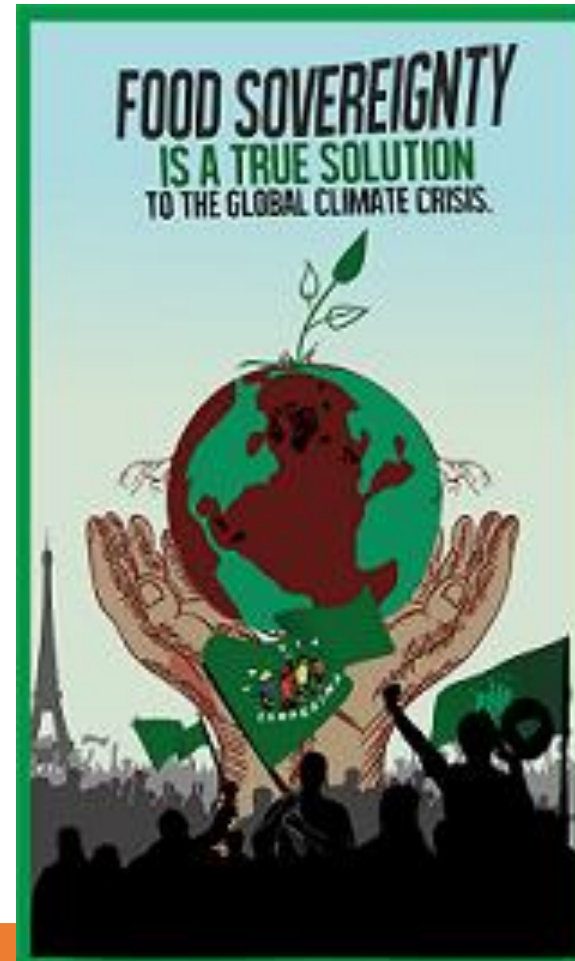
Food as a commons

=> A rural struggle in its origins..



Key example: La via Campesina movement

Food sovereignty



Food as a commons

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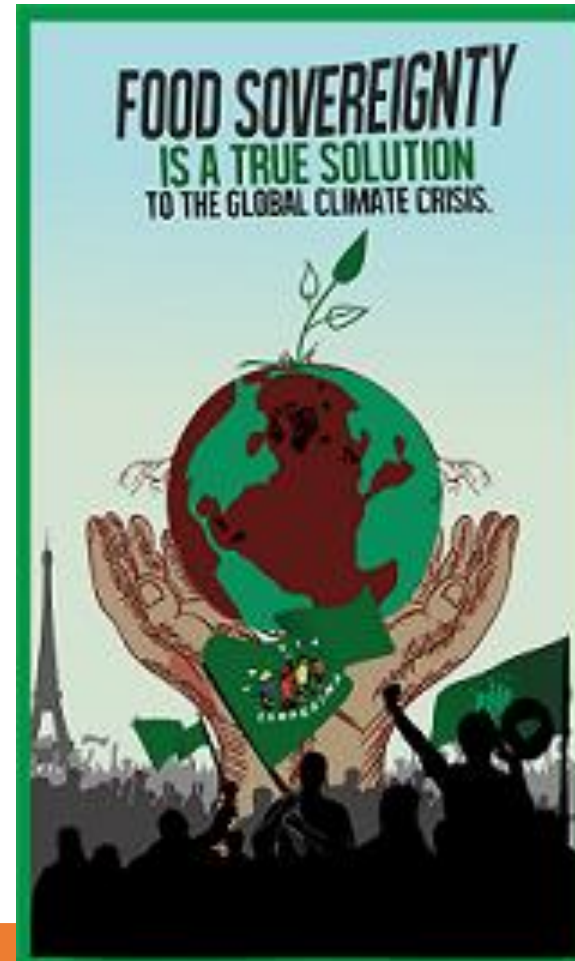


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Food sovereignty



- **Regaining control over land and means of production** which have been privatized



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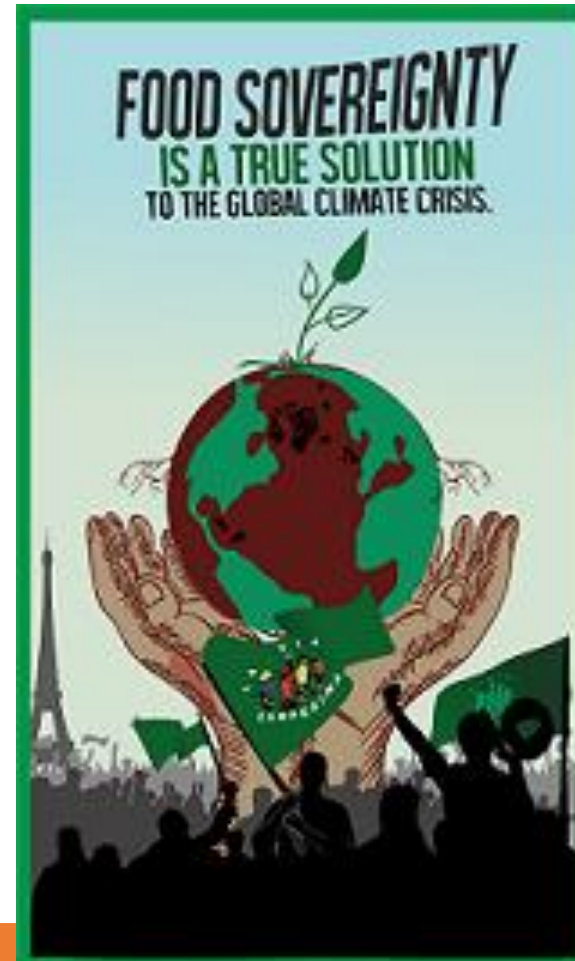


Key example: La **via Campesina** movement

Food sovereignty



- **Regaining control over land and means of production** which have been privatized
- Creating **community-based food systems** supporting small-scale peasant/agro-ecological agriculture



Food as a commons

=> A **rural struggle** in its origins.. ➔ **Today also visibly urban**



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- **Self-organizing** citizens **reclaiming land/spaces** for food production



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- **Self-organizing** citizens **reclaiming land/spaces** for food production
- **Or building Community Based Food Systems**



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Diverse forms of
self-organized
local initiatives



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↑
Diverse forms of
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*"Food democracy?",
'Urban food transitions'
"Urban Food Sovereignty"
"urban agro-ecological
movements"...*



Examples in Brussels

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Examples in Brussels

⇒ **Increase and diversification** of self-organizing food initiatives over the years

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- Relevant **bottom-up** component

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⇒ **Increase and diversification** of self-organizing food initiatives over the years

- Relevant **bottom-up** component



- Stimulated by a favorable social and political climate

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Examples in Brussels

Examples:

(initiatives, organizations, projects resonating with the 'commoning' philosophy)

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Food as a common

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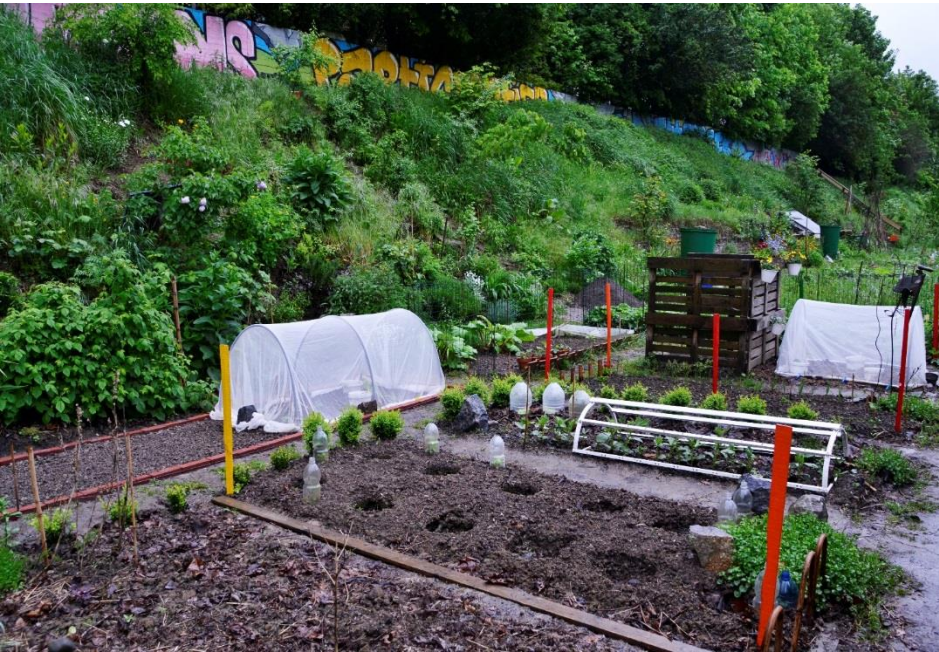
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(initiatives, organizations, projects resonating with the 'commoning' philosophy)

- Collective Gardens

Jardins participatifs Etterbeek



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Jardins de la Rue Gray



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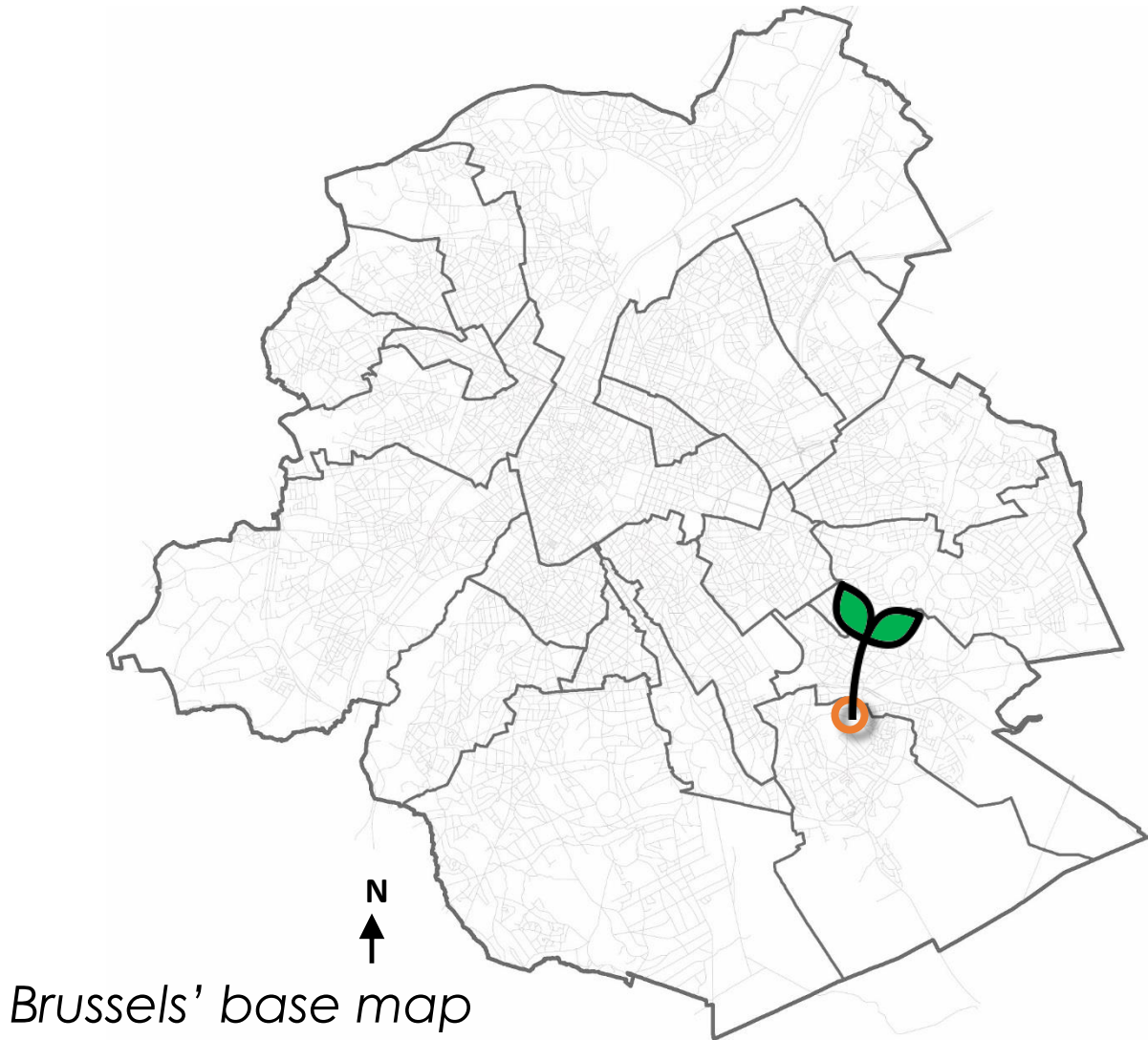


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Examples in Brussels

Chant des Cailles



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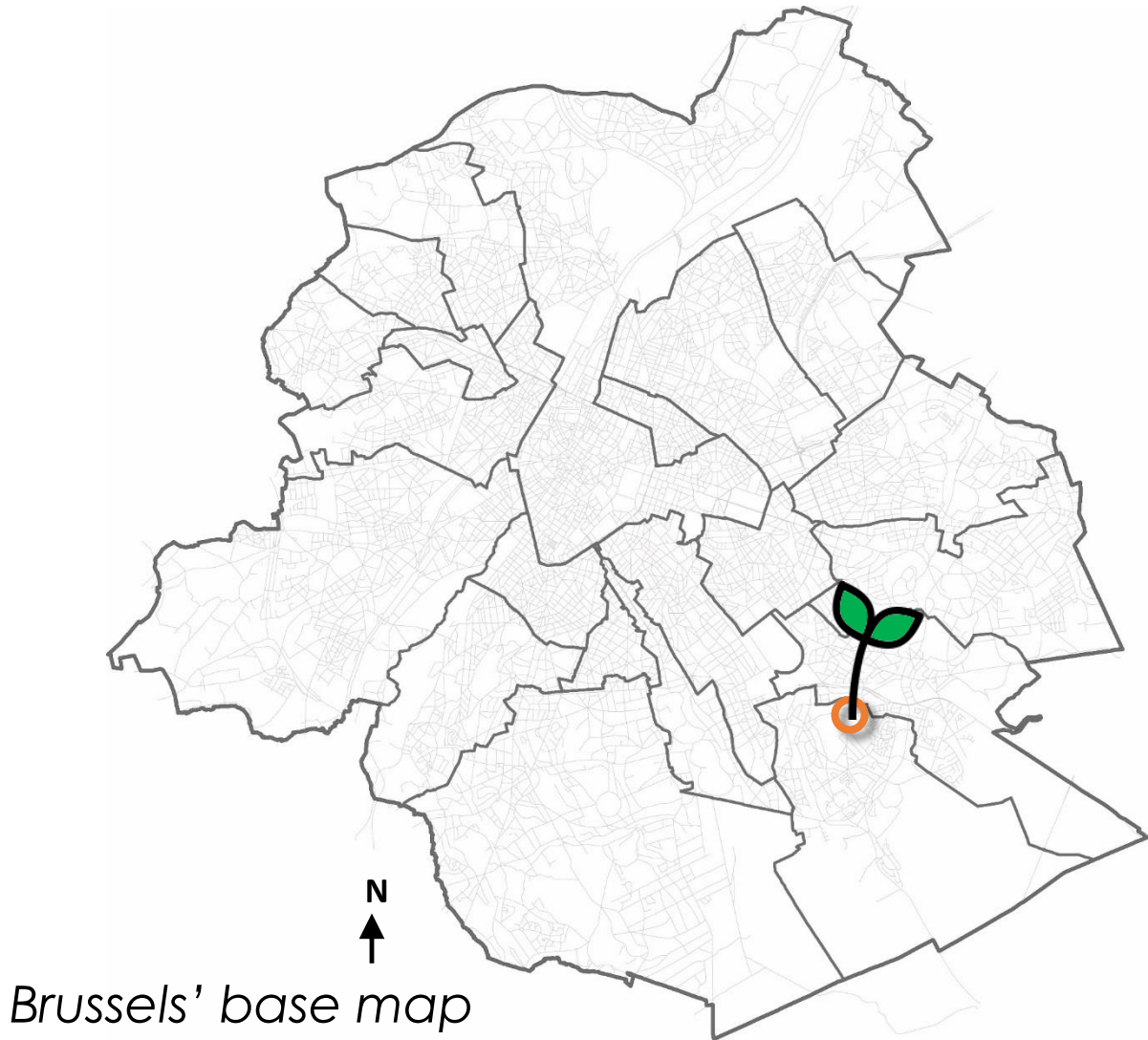


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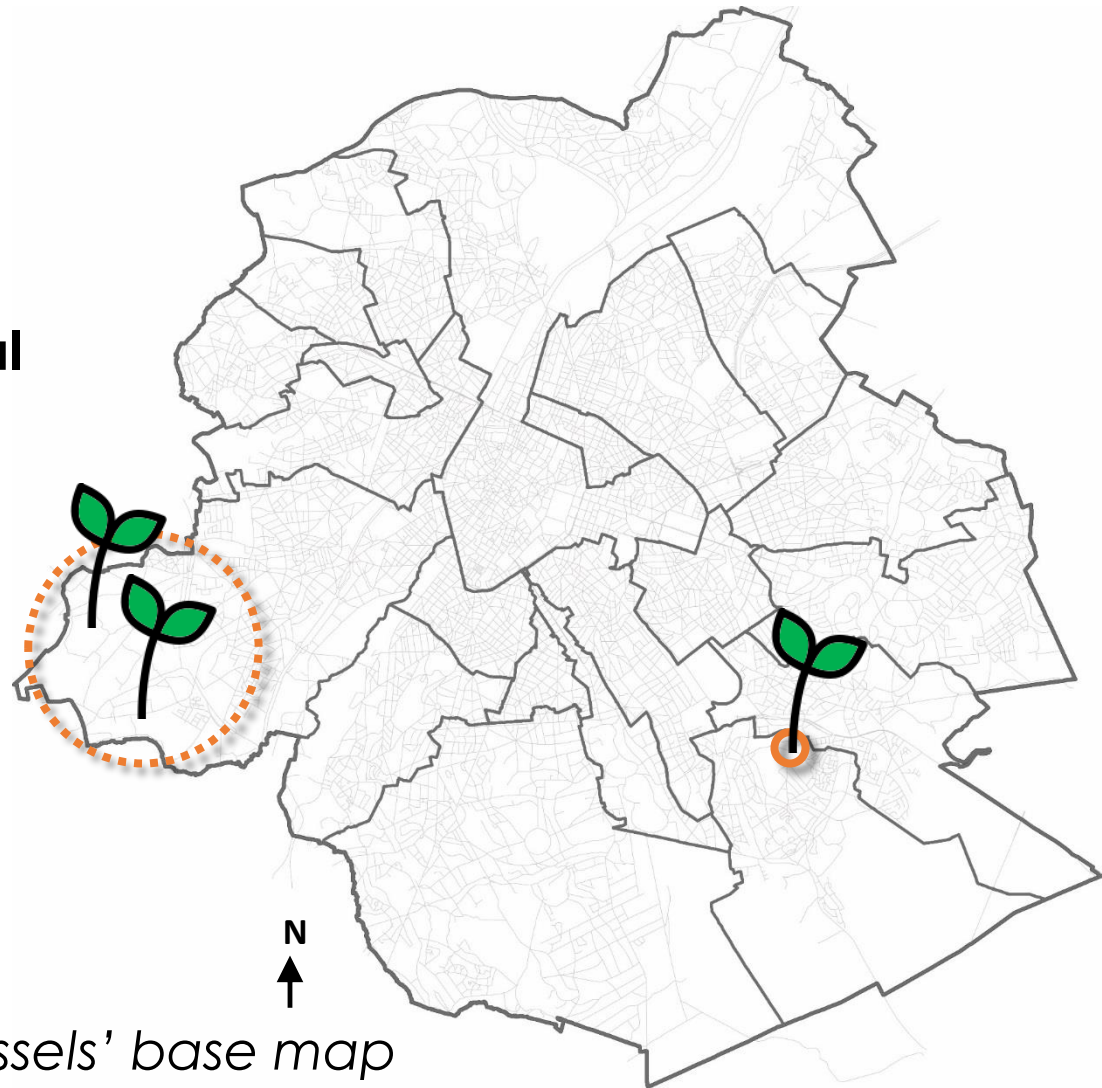


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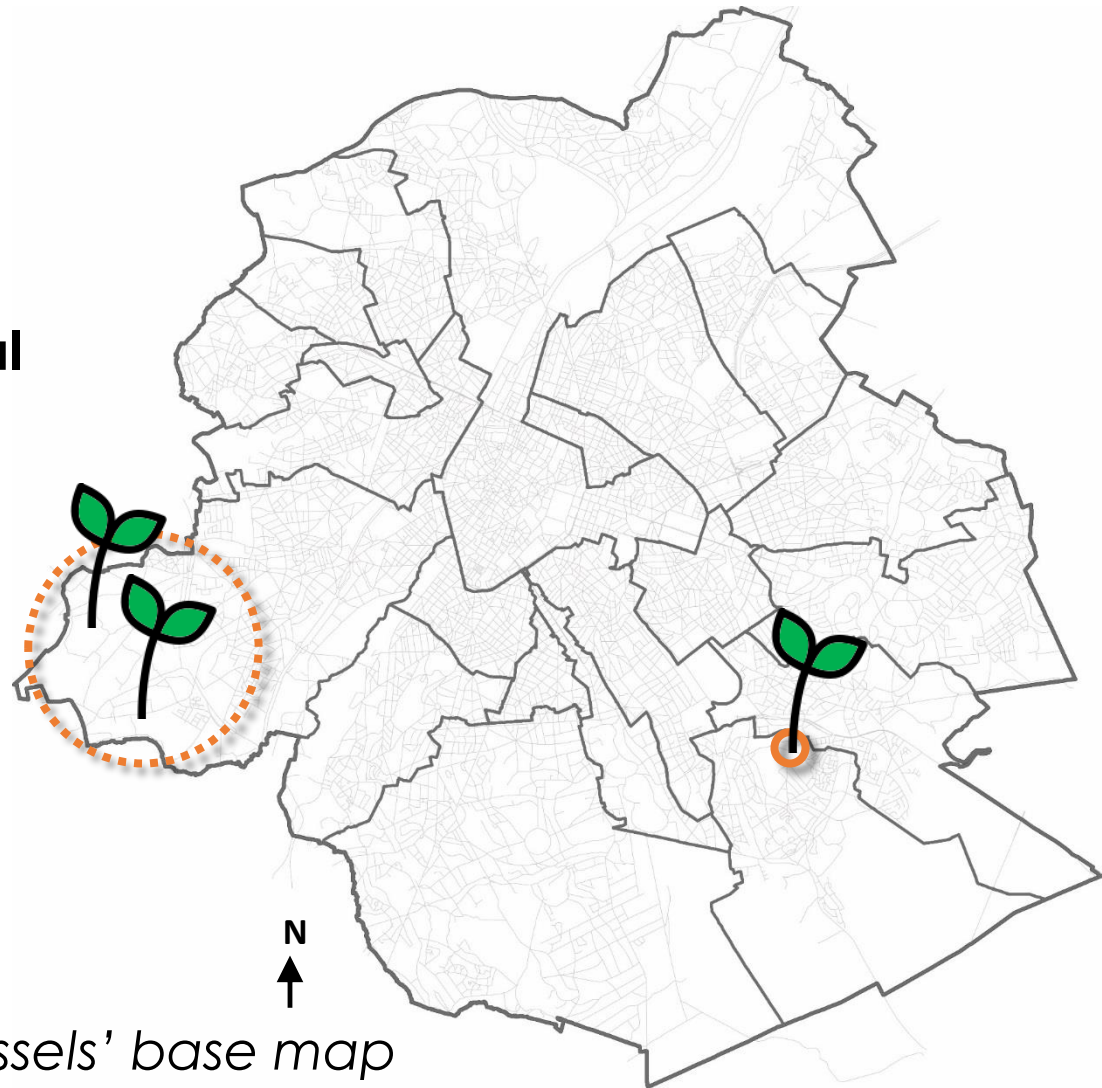


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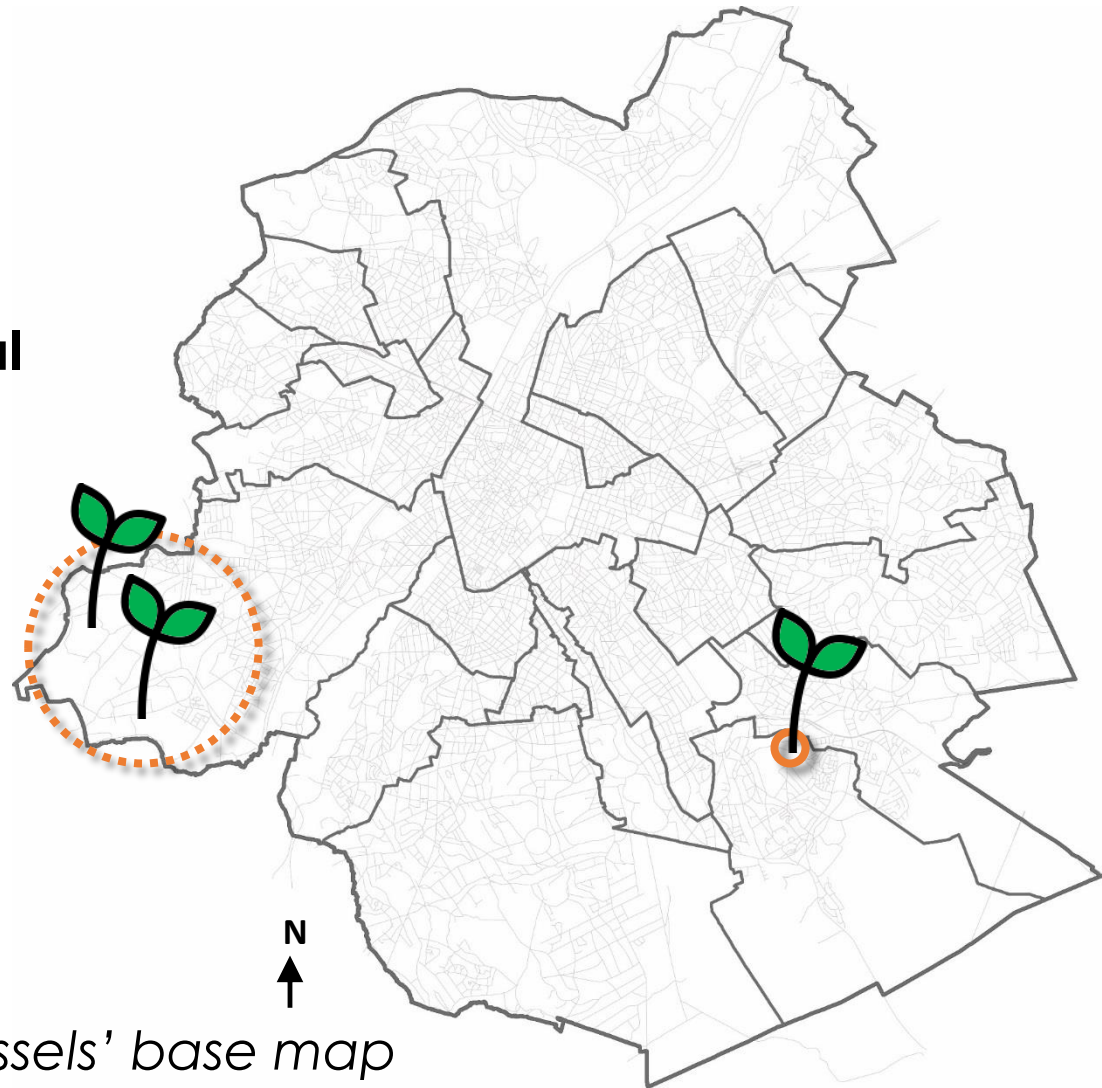


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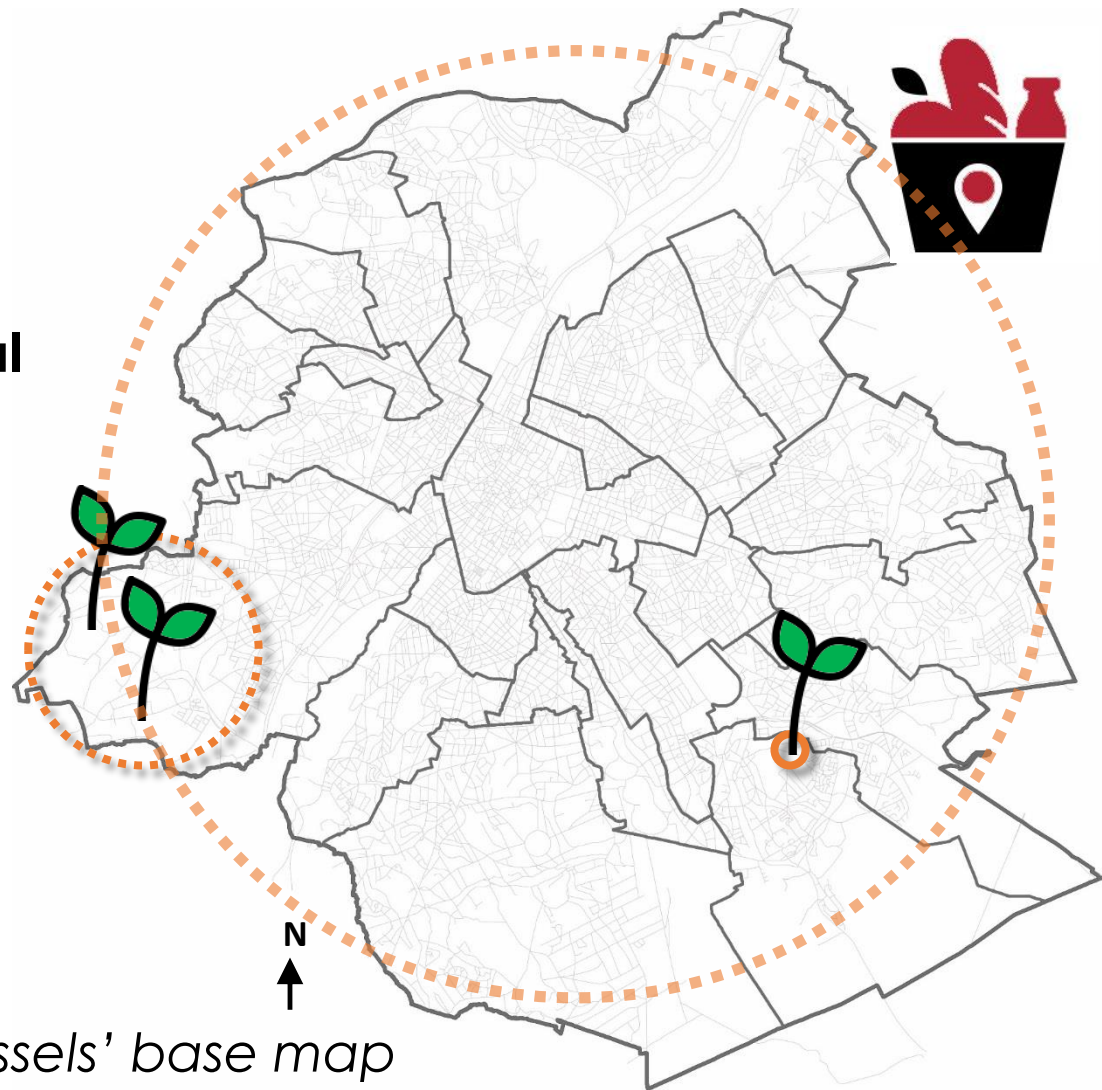


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Brussels' base map



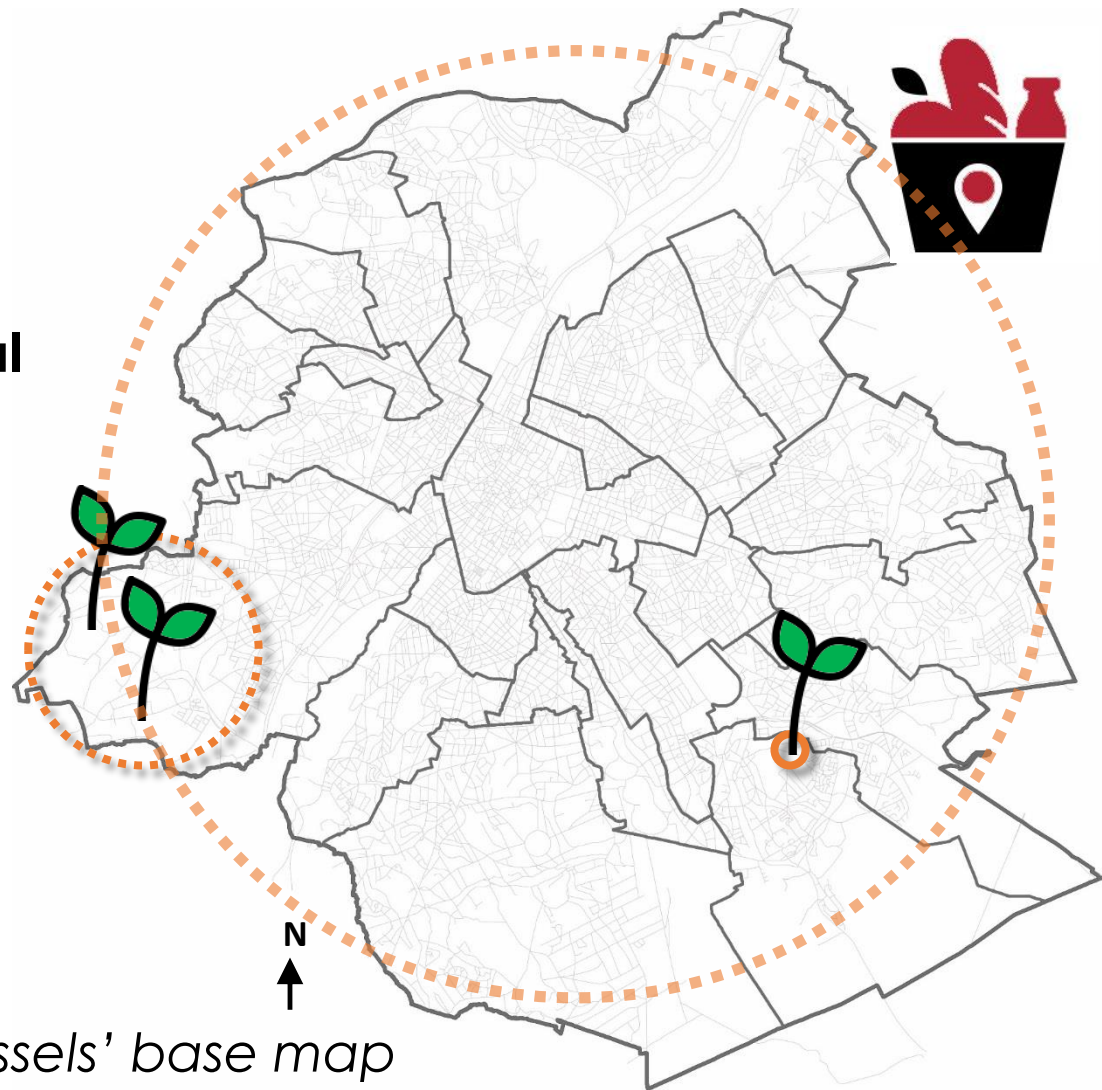


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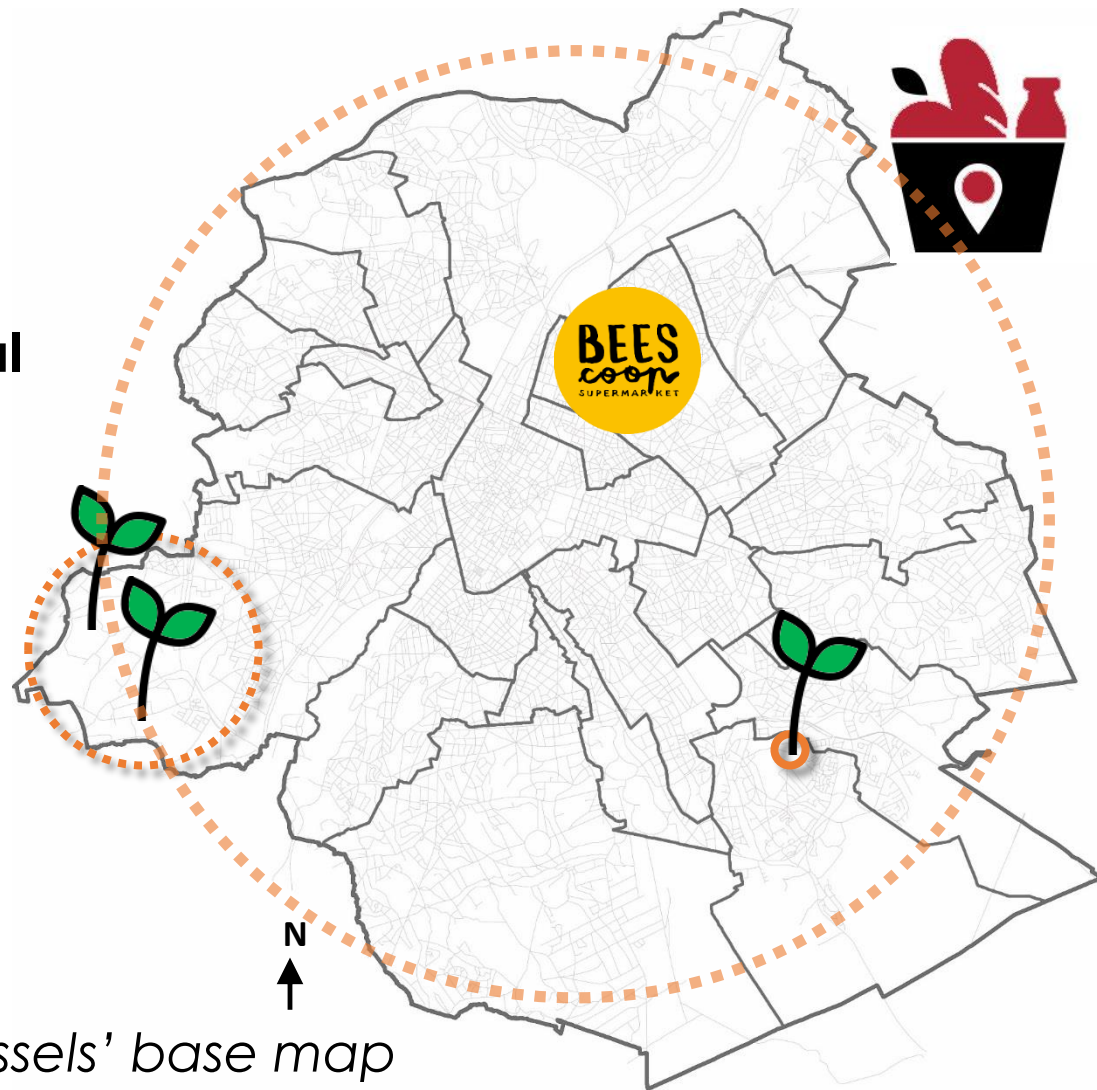
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- **Organizations operating with the logics of the Commons** (enablers)

Facilitating access to land for small scale farming



Challenges

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Challenges



Challenges

=> Highlighting key tensions

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- Inclusion - Exclusion

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(e.g. participation, decision-making; volunteer vs professionalism)

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- Autonomy - Dependence

(influence of a wider network of agents)

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Spontaneity vs institutionalization

Challenges

=> Highlighting key tensions => **what these tensions suggest?**

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*=> Whether/how
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**How commoning
values can percolate
and influence public
agendas and policies**

Challenges

=> Highlighting key tensions => **what these tensions suggest?**



Need for public conversation and awareness

=> Whether/how commoning initiatives can exercise wider public benefits



How commoning values can percolate and influence public agendas and policies

Sharing responsibilities in the protection/support to the common goods

Thank you!

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